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# Polar Plunge

## Police officers, residents hope to generate funds for Special Olympics

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Police officers and residents will soon plunge into icy Belleville waters to generate funds for the Special Olympics of Michigan.

The 11th annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge will take place on Feb. 24 at the Belleville Moose Lodge. It is one of 10 plunges planned around the state, according to Jennifer Wilt, public relations manager for Special Olympics Michigan.

"The Belleville polar plunge was the first plunge in Michigan," she said. "It was started by Dawn Zonja, of the Michigan State Police, who's also a retired

Special Olympics Michigan Executive Committee member."

"Every year it gets bigger and bigger," Wilt added.

Anyone can dress in costume and take the plunge for a minimum \$50 entry fee. Participants will then qualify for the Golden Plunger Award—the honor the plunger with the most creative costume and jump receives—along with other awards.

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor will be one of the judges this year.

"It's my first time as a judge so I'm not sure what to expect or look for. Maybe a bunch of polar bears," he said jokingly. "I'm no fool though, I'm not jumping into that lake."

This year, the organization

hopes to have at least 60 plungers in order to reach their \$15,000 goal.

The Van Buren Public Safety Dive Team will also participate this year, including Capt. Anthony Karver, who said he has accepted the challenge. He would like to raise at least \$1,000 for his dive into the frigid water.

Each participant will receive incentive prizes and an official 2007 Polar Plunge towel, Wilt said. Plungers can also earn a hooded sweatshirt, fleece or robe based on the amount pledged by family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Those who don't want to brave the water can collect donations for incentive prizes that bear the "Too Chicken to Plunge" logo and

attend the post-plunge party. Tickets for the party are \$5 for non-plungers. All proceeds and donations will go to Special Olympics Michigan for sports training and athletic competitions, according to Wilt.

Registration will start at 10:30 a.m. followed by the parade of

costumes. The plunge will take place at 11:30 a.m.

For more information on the plunge or Special Olympics, visit [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org) or 1 (800) 644-6404. To join the dive team polar plunge or to donate, contact Karver at [akarver@vanburen-mi.org](mailto:akarver@vanburen-mi.org).



### The 'eyes' have it

Students from the Van Buren Public School District received new prescription glasses recently from Pearl Vision at Briarwood Mall as part of the "Give the Gift of Sight" program. The donation went to 10 district students, including Killian Luzier from Savage Elementary School, Kalie Everts from Elwell Elementary School and De'Sean Jones from the alternative education program.

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News  
in brief

Valentines luncheon scheduled

Seniors will be able to enjoy Valentine's Day during a special luncheon on Feb. 14.

The luncheon will be at the senior center at 36525 Bibbens Road.

During the event, Mayor Alan Lambert will speak, and a dance recital courtesy of the Midwest Highland Dane Association will take place. The Dance Association specializes in traditional Scottish dance.

The cost of the luncheon is \$4.50 per person. Registration is required.

For more information, or to register, call the senior center at (734) 955-4120

Story time is back

Families looking for activities for children during the winter months are invited to step out of the cold and into the Romulus Public Library for preschool story time.

Story time is geared to children ages 3 to 5. Each session includes five stories, and a craft session. The library will run to separate sessions throughout February and March.

Tuesday evening sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. starting Feb. 20, and Wednesday sessions will begin at 10:30 a.m. starting Feb. 28. The sessions will conclude on March 27 and 28, respectively.

The sessions are free, but advanced registration is required.

The library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next to city hall.

For more information or to sign up, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

Chamber sponsors wine tasting event

The Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host a Silent Auction & Wine Tasting Dinner to generate funds to support business programs.

The wine tasting and auction will take place Feb. 9 at the Detroit Metro Airport Marriott Hotel in Romulus, and is a fundraiser for the group.

Local businesses and chamber members have donated items to be bought in a silent auction, and all of the proceeds generated will fund year-long chamber activities.

Tickets are still available for the event.

For more information about the cost of attending the event, call (734) 893-0694.

# Could neighboring communities merge?

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

It's been a topic in the community for quite some time: what would happen if Belleville and Van Buren Township merged into one community?

Would it mean better services? Cost savings? Will this happen eventually anyway? Area officials question those possibilities.

The village of Belleville was separated from Van Buren Township in 1905, according to Historic Museum Director Diane Wilson.

"Residents had voted three times to remain one entity but the state legislature decided on incorporation for Belleville," she said. "We can well imagine the uproar it caused. It was a very unpopular event."

It also left township hall no longer located in the township. Now, more than 100 years later, Wilson and others suspect a decision to merge—or "re-merge"—would once again cause controversy.

"I don't think it's in the best interest of

the city," said Belleville Councilmember Walter Mears. "I don't think we'd have the personal services we get now with police and fire. If we have a dedicated entity we can pay more attention to the area. Belleville has a hometown feel that's always appreciated."

Belleville Mayor ProTem Bill Emerson said services depend on the people involved. If you have good people, he doesn't see a big change.

"The township has a lot to offer, but I don't know if adding the city to it would help," Emerson said. "It could happen in the future, but as long as Belleville citizens are willing to fund services I don't think a merge will happen."

Belleville Mayor Tom Fielder said it would take a project that's beneficial to both Belleville and Van Buren Township, but a lot has been done already without going through the formal political process.

"We went with Van Buren for dispatch and we have the benefits of their recreation services," said Fielder. "As for better ser-

vices, I would say no for police because response time would be up and, we have a community policing where we know officers by name. If you do away with Belleville we wouldn't have that anymore. It's not a knock on Van Buren, it's just the geography of it."

"For fire though, it would mean not just a volunteer department," he added.

However, in Van Buren Township, officials are certain of one thing: it would be a huge undertaking.

"I understand the economic difficulty and the appeal, but I'm not sure if our residents would assist Belleville in getting out of financial difficulty," said Township Supervisor Cindy King. "For Van Buren I can't fathom entering into that unless there's an economic benefit for us."

Officials said they would have to look further into whether or not shared services would result in a cost savings. Fielder said he was open to the option.

"Two communities working together to do things more efficiently and economically; go for it," said Fielder.

## Measure - Bill approval could be a long struggle for anti-smoke supporters

FROM PAGE 1

restaurant and bar workers in the state, who are exposed involuntarily to smoke for several hours at a time, said Basham.

"Simply put, whether they're bartenders and mechanics or accountants and contractors, people shouldn't be put at risk by being exposed to secondhand smoke at the workplace," said Basham, who said getting such a measure approved in both chambers of the state legislature would be a priority in his current term.

"I've been working on this issue for a long time, but our momentum keeps getting stronger. There's a solid consensus among both public and expert opinions, and there's more bipartisan support in the

state legislature than ever before."

According to a June 2006 report by the U.S. Surgeon General, nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increased their risk of developing heart disease by 25 to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20-30 percent.

The report also indicated that an effective way to protect the public from second-hand smoke exposure was through comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation and policies.

Also, smoking is contributing to a health care bill that the state can't afford, Basham said.

"This issue is more crucial than ever given the current budget crisis," he said. "We can either enact legislation like this now, or we can continue to

squander much-needed health-care resources on highly-preventable diseases caused by first-and second-hand smoke."

Indicators are that any enacting any smoke-free legislation is an uphill battle. Basham has introduced smoke-free bills before, but the senator was never able to get the legislature to vote on the measure, and the bills died.

The senator said learned today that the bill was sent to the Economic Development Committee as opposed to the Health and Safety Committee for review.

"That tells me this is going to be difficult," he said.

Twenty-six states have already moved to protect their workers from deadly exposure to second-hand smoke.

Bar and restaurant owners have typically expressed concerns about smoke-free legislation, but Basham said the in the past, certain businesses – like bowling alleys – were exempt from the legislation.

"This won't hurt them because all businesses would have to do it," he said. "It puts them on a level playing field. The first time around, business owners complained because they were being singled out."

If the bill fails to get a hearing this term, Basham said he will work on a petition drive to place the measure on the ballot.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm in the past has indicated that if smoke-free legislation was approved by the legislature, that she would sign it into law.

The bill is number S.B.109.

## Buyouts

FROM PAGE 1

GM spokeswoman Theresa Endicott said there's bound to be some effect on the city, even though only 4 percent of plant workers live there. "Most of our people – including the people that took part in the special attrition program – did not live in Romulus," she said. "Still, anytime there's fewer people, it's bound to have some effect."

City officials were initially worried that buyouts at the plant – which is the one of the city's

largest employers – would mean less pass-through business at small stores, gas stations, and other service businesses.

Oscar J.R. Rhotan, the director of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce and the owner of Metro Realty, said he's not convinced the overall effect of the buyouts will be negative.

"I just don't think we're going to see a loss of activity because people aren't picking up and leaving," he said. "I have at least one client who accepted a buyout and is opening a computer repair business. People aren't going to be leaving in droves."

Councilman William Crova

said the fact that some of the jobs vacated by the new retirees will be filled by job-bank candidates will help stave off any negative effects to area businesses.

"We've been very fortunate to have GM in our community – that's the largest manufacturer of engines in North America, and it's here," he said. "Of course anytime you have job eliminations, it's going to have an effect. But it's more about revenue sharing, funds for schools. We have difficult conditions because of what's happening in the auto industry."

Rhotan said that if more former GM employees do decide to leave, it may be corrected by a

more recent uptick in the city real estate outlook.

"I think the election was a turning point for people – they wanted to see what was happening in the House and Senate," he said. "We noticed that things are starting to improve. We've seen an improvement locally over the last 30 days. I've hired more agents, and I wouldn't hire and train people if I didn't think it was going to be OK."

GM offered buyouts to hourly workers ranging from \$35,000 to \$100,000 lump sum payments in the latter part of 2006 to cut costs. The measures were undertaken to help the automaker return to profitability.

## Taxes

FROM PAGE 1

because real estate values go up in a given area – or if modifications or improvements on a home take place – the amount of tax will also increase.

Assessments are also reduced if something has happened to the property, such as a fire or a natural disaster, using the same scale.

Many of the increases that will take place are based on numbers

that were collected by the county before the real estate market cooled in 2006.

Mayor Alan Lambert said people should dispute their taxes if they feel their home or property is being assessed for more than it's worth.

"Taxes are already too high, and it's the resident's right to dispute that," he said. "We'll work as hard as we can to make sure they are assessed fairly."

Disputing taxes can be difficult, however, because the factors that reduce assessments are specific in nature. A reduction may

be granted if homes similar in size and style have sold for significantly less than the assessor's valuation, an appraisal conflicts with the assessor's findings, if you recently sold a property for less than the assessed value, or a structure incurred significant damage.

Lambert said he believes some people living in Romulus may have a hard time shouldering the blow of more taxes.

"The economy is bad right now," he said. "The entire area is losing jobs, and this isn't a good time for people to have to pay

more (taxes)."

Property taxes are determined using a formula in which the homeowner's assessed value is multiplied by the city millage rate.

Therefore, the only major tax increases or decreases residents will see is when voters approve or disprove local millages.

Lambert said if some new projects come to fruition, like the proposed casino and racetrack, residents might see a drop in taxes because those entities will provide new revenue to pay for services.



# OPINION

## Looking further ahead

Last year, the Wayne City Council started off the budget process in April with the knowledge that they faced a potential \$800,000 budget shortfall.

This year, they started in January—Monday night, to be exact—with the knowledge that they face a \$700,000 budget shortfall.

What a difference a year makes.

The council and administration have taken a few positive steps to tackle this problem early. The meeting itself was a good one—it's the first time the council members and various department heads have sat down to merely talk finances, without any goals or other items attached. It gives them additional time to come up with some ideas to try to tackle the issue, too.

At the first blush, most of it doesn't seem to be their fault. The majority of the difficulties spring from things outside their control. The largest single increase was an estimated \$658,000 jump in the cost of providing benefits—a 14.5 percent spike over last year. Transportation costs have gone up, so have utility costs—even though city staffers drive the same amount and have had to throw on extra sweaters as the temperature dials have gone down in the winter and up in the summer. Other costs have been factored in, too, like the 3 percent increase in salaries dictated by approved contracts.

They've also taken a hit from successful Michigan Tax Tribunal cases, something officials have no control over, and are unclear about the impact of the new state cable legislation and are holding their breaths over the fate of state shared revenue.

It's going to be another tough budget season.

Mayor Al Haidous threw out some good ideas. He suggested the sale of the incinerator property—when it comes in—should be allocated directly to bolster the fund balance.

He also wanted to talk about purchasing a new ladder truck for the fire department. While it may seem ludicrous to discuss purchasing a \$1 million piece of equipment at a time when the city is looking at relatively dismal figures, it's actually a smart thing. The council needs to 'put all the pain on the table,' as he said, and that kind of expense can't be planned for when you're looking ahead one or two years at a time. It's a need. It's got to be factored in.

Other suggestions—transferring additional money from the Water and Sewer Fund and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to help out the general fund—draw a little more concern. Any transfer from the water fund will be reflected in increased water rates and the DDA already contributes about 80 percent of its annual budget to the general fund. It's a kind of patchwork that won't sustain itself for long.

Still, these things are just among the initial proposals. There's plenty of time to hammer things out. That gives us reason to be cautiously optimistic about the coming year.

## District forethought pays off

Officials in the Wayne-Westland Community School District unveiled the addition to the Alumni Arena on Tuesday.

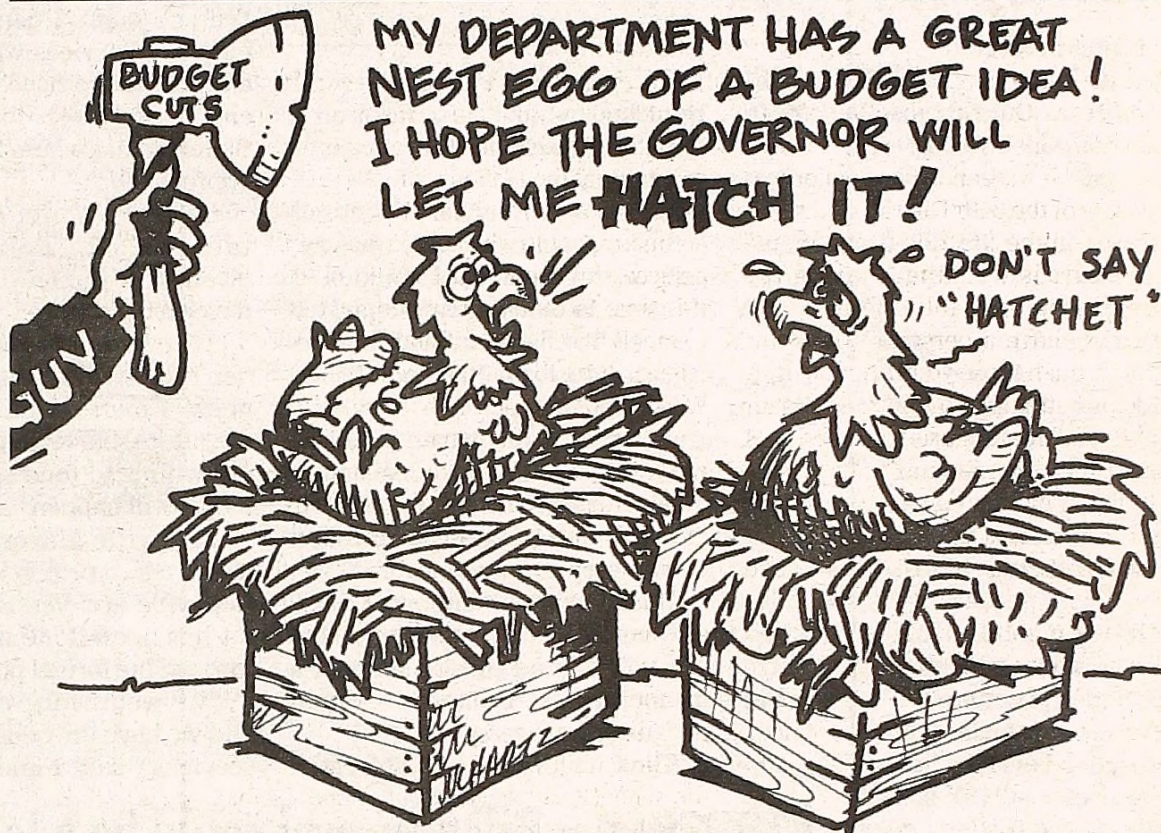
They have every right to be proud.

The expansion is more than just an upgrade for students and coaches. It also shows how smart planning and forethought can provide a long-term benefit to the community as a whole.

Obviously the school has a long, rich history in the community. The arena itself—the most recent construction at the school, other than the new athletic fields—dates back more than 20 years and was in need of an improvement.

This project was planned, though, before the current needs were truly identified. Current graduation requirements will put additional

See **Arena**, page 5



## Long past time for a change

I've heard a couple of consistent arguments about the sputtering mural program in Wayne:

'We need more businesses, not murals' and 'now is not the time'.

After attending the Wayne 2020 Committee meeting last week, I can't help agree with part of that philosophy.

We do need more businesses here in Wayne, but that's precisely why the mural program—or something else like it—is necessary.

I look at it from a businessperson's perspective. Starting up or relocating a business is an expensive proposition. It takes a large investment and a huge commitment. You've got to be willing to take a chance.

Say, then, that you're a businessperson looking at two prospective communities. You don't even have to give them a name, really, to make the comparison work. Community A is struggling just to keep the lights on that the streets plowed. They're so afraid of an impending millage that they're not looking to do much else. Community B is coming up with different ideas to try to attract people and businesses to town. They acknowledge that things aren't going well and they're taking proactive steps to change it. Which community would I choose? I'll take B every time.

There are a couple of other things to consider here, too. The mural program already has \$50,000 budgeted for it. The artists asked for and the Wayne 2020 Committee recommended an increase in the budget of \$39,000 to cover the entire wall of the State Wayne Theater. Those funds would come from the 2007-2008 budget, which hasn't been discussed yet, much less approved.

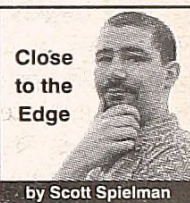
That tells me that funding isn't the real issue. It's not that the city can't pay for it, it's that the council won't let it happen.

The only reason I've heard—that it would distract from the upcoming millage campaign—doesn't hold water with me. It certainly doesn't sound much like leadership.

The council hasn't voted on the additional funds, yet, but if they vote it down I think they'll be shorting the city in the long run, too. How is anyone on the city council—or the planning commission, for that matter—going to urge business owners to take a chance on the city when the people who are supposed to be most passionate about it will not? Good luck trying to get them to go an inch beyond their minimum requirements.

This is not just a mural issue. I don't want anyone to think I'm fanatic over the whole thing, or that I think it will somehow solve all of our problems, or if it doesn't happen I'll go out and paint it myself or anything like that. This is about the concept of doing something new, something different, to try to spark some interest in the community to draw in more people and businesses.

I know the budget is tight. There are obstacles. But that's not going to change anytime soon because you can't just sit around and wait for change to happen. If the council votes this down, they're opting for the status quo. They're opting for the same slow progress. And if we let it go without a fight we're all doing them a favor because they won't even have to come up with a new excuse next time around. They can just keep using the same one, over and over.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

## Now we even hype the hype

Rest easy, citizens. Coca-Cola has returned to the Super Bowl adscape.

In case you don't know, this Coca-Cola, also known as "Coke," is a brand of soda pop. Wait. Of course you knew that. Everybody knows that. Scientists have determined that humans have made the next evolutionary step and are born with this knowledge genetically stamped onto their brains.

Yet it is important news that along with several other mega-corporations, Coke will shell out something like \$2.6 million for a 30-second spot this year—and they're doing three of them. The last time Coke advertised during the big game, in 1998, they paid in the neighborhood of \$1.3 million for a half-minute ad.

Pepsi-Cola, meanwhile, is the halftime sponsor and hasn't missed a Super Bowl in years. Together, the two beverage giants spend billions just trying to keep their market share.

This is news because the stakes are high for advertisers. And the stakes are high because it is news. The pressure mounts each year to create a commercial that consumers remember—that the morning shows will dissect and replay and make certain their viewers remember. Half of the people who will watch the game on Sunday are those clever minds who tell you "I only watch it for the commercials," as if they coined the phrase on the spot.

The thing is, you don't really need to watch the Super Bowl (or TV) anymore to see these commercials. Some of them, like Coke's "Videogame" ad, have been running in movie theaters for weeks. Other companies have already posted previews or the full thing on their websites. And the rest, within



Local ties

by Kevin Hill

# JOURNAL

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See **Hype**, page 5



Letters

Judge speaks to club

To the editor:

This once again is about BPW and the Belleville Area. Our first meeting of 2007 took place on Jan. 8 when we sat down to dinner in the New Year. Our speaker was Brian Oakley of the 34th District Court.

He spoke on the juvenile program and how the court is working to bring the young offenders back into the fold. He said that they have a person in the court who sorts through those young people they can help, and attempts to find mentors for the juveniles. Mentors are recruited that have long term commitments to the young people – if you cannot commit yourself to long term duties, it is not a good thing for you. He told that he has had such good response from people like the City of Belleville (he mentioned Keith Boc) and other organizations to keep the young people busy and interested. He gave members a pamphlet explaining the program.

It was a good evening, informative and interesting.

For those who wish to attend meetings and get involved, please call Janet Millard at the Belleville Chamber of Commerce (734) 697-7151. Our next project is the Reality Store in May at South Middle School. Volunteers are needed to assist the students.

Marilyn Montgomery  
Belleville BPW publicity chair

Fundraising participants thanked

To the editor:

The Van Buren Public School Education Foundation would like to thank all the people who attended our first annual fundraiser dinner at the Holiday Inn. We raised over \$10,000 dollars from our first event! There are many people who helped make this such a successful event, but I would like to take this time to thank a few people, like Mike Cambell and the Jazz Band from Belleville High School for all the great music, Steve Wilson and the video club for taping the program and Michelle Lenard for all the decorations. Also, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for seeing the need and investing the seed money to get this project started.

This is an exciting time for our community. This is our opportunity, as a community, to give our students an advantage in their education. The Foundation's goal is to raise \$1 million in 10 years and with everyone's help, we will achieve that goal.

The foundation is a separate entity from the school system. The Foundation is comprised of citizens and business owners who want to create a difference in our community. Our community will reap what we sow.

Thank you so much for helping out the Van Buren Public School Education Foundation this past weekend.

Randy Brown,  
Van Buren Public Schools Education  
Foundation vice president

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184. All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

Arena

FROM PAGE 5

pressure on athletic facilities and the eventual realignment of girls competitive sports seasons will play a factor, too. It was smart thinking for district officials to propose a Sinking Fund millage in 2002, before the economy took a drastic turn for the worse.

That fund provided money to upgrade nearly every facility in the district. It paid for large maintenance items and aesthetic enhancements as well as expansion projects that the district wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford. In short, it bolstered the image of the school district—and the Wayne-Westland Community—as a

whole.

That's important in today's economic climate, too. School districts face increasing competition from their neighbors as well as charter and private schools. They have to continually fend off budget cuts imposed by the state. At the same time they have to constantly improve their way of doing things to improve the educational experience for students.

School districts are one of the main things that draw people into the community.

The expansion at Alumni Arena may, on the surface, seem a relatively small thing, but it's not. It shows an ongoing commitment to the betterment of the district and the image of the community.

And that's a good thing for everyone involved.

Here is the formula: remind people that the Super Bowl is approaching. Tell them how much advertisers are paying. Ask if this is a good thing. Send viewers and readers to your website to vote for their favorites.

AOL has a special section devoted to the 2007 spots. CBS, the network airing the game, is also premiering "Super Bowl's Greatest Commercials" on Friday night. And [www.superbowl-ads.com](http://www.superbowl-ads.com), a site started by a fan of the hyped-up commercials, offers "to provide you with the very best in coverage" of the ads.

Of course, I know this column only adds to the endless talk. That's why I promise, from this day on, to never speak of Super Bowl commercials as the Greatest Thing Ever Created. In fact, maybe I'll just buy some R.C. Cola and skip the game altogether.

Now, I'm not calling for a boycott of Coke or any advertiser. I'm not even against commercials, in principle. Hype the product—that's fine. But don't hype the hype.

Hype

FROM PAGE 5

minutes of airing, will be found on YouTube. ("Videogame" is already on the site, where one poster opines: "Coke is bloody brilliant. I went out and bought a coke just because I saw this in a theatre." Another gushes, "Actually, i now want to drink coke more, you got to look at it from the buyers point of view... I like it!!!" The capitalization and punctuation is theirs.)

We are, for all our complaining, ad-crazy. We are attached to our brands, and so we admire and root for the architects that made us fall in love with that drink, that sweater, that logo. A commercial that does its job lasts much longer than 30 seconds.

But are we excited about the commercials, or excited to be talking about the commercials? I can't even tell anymore. While no one was looking, commercials became a serious topic for TV news and newspapers.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
Newspaper Advertisement

**Seeking Demolition Bids.** The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for the disconnection of utilities, demolition of a residential home and related structures and removal of debris and related items on a parcel number V125-83-101-04-0023-000 located at 42119 Richmond Drive, Van Buren Township 48111. Bid forms and demolition work specifications are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111, from 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday and submitted to the Clerks office. Bids will be received until 2:30 pm February 16, 2007 and will be publicly opened at 3:00 pm February 16, 2007. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to accept the low bid and is an equal opportunity employer.

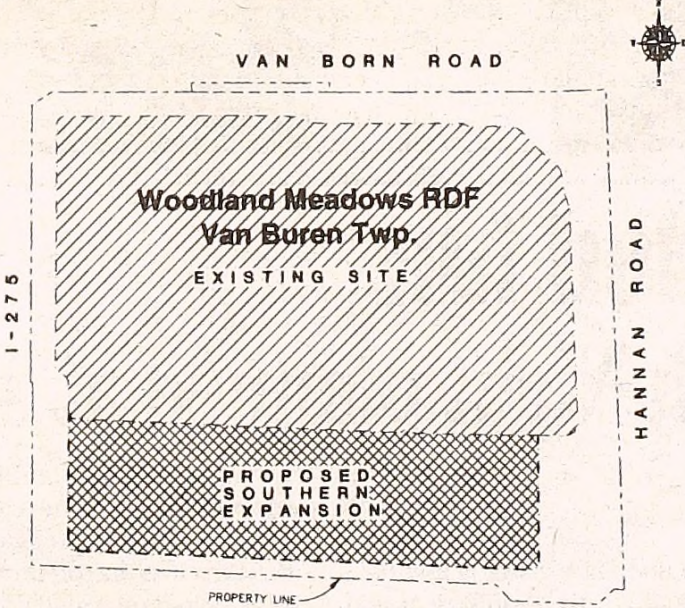
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EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING TYPE II  
SOLID WASTE LANDFILL

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD) has received a construction permit application from Waste Management for a lateral and vertical expansion of the existing Woodland Meadows – Van Buren Landfill located at 5900 Hannan Road, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.11501 et seq as amended (Part 115) requires the DEQ to make a final decision on the permit application within 120 days of determining the application to be administratively complete, which, for this application, is April 20, 2007. This notice is being issued to provide for a public review and comment period for the application.

The applicant is proposing a lateral and vertical expansion to the south of the current permitted disposal area. The proposed expansion will consist of approximately 58.2 acres laterally and will expand vertically on approximately 42.7 acres of the existing landfill. The location of Woodland Meadows – Van Buren Landfill is shown on the site map below. It is located in part of Section 1, T.3S., R.8E., Van Buren Township, Wayne County.



The DEQ will hold a public hearing in the vicinity of the proposed disposal area if a request for such a hearing is submitted in writing by the applicant or the municipality involved, or if a petition containing a number of signatures equaling at least 10 percent of the registered voters of the municipality where the project is to be located who voted in the last gubernatorial election is submitted to the DEQ. Such a petition shall be validated by the clerk of Van Buren Township. Requests for public hearings should be submitted to the DEQ by Friday, March 2, 2007.

The application package may be reviewed by appointment at the Wayne County Department of Environment, Land Resource Management Division (LRMD) office, located at 3600 Commerce Court, Building E, Wayne, Michigan 48184, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, by contacting Ms. Denise Lonce at (734) 326-3936. Copies of the complete application package may be ordered from this address for the cost of reproduction and mailing.

The complete application package may also be reviewed by appointment at the Southeast Michigan District Office of the DEQ, WHMD, located at 27700 Donald Court, Warren, Michigan 48092, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling Mary Nikitin at (586) 753-3833. Copies of the complete application package may be ordered from this address for the cost of reproduction and mailing. A copy will also be available for viewing at the Fred Fischer Library at 167 Fourth Street, Belleville, Michigan. If you have any comments on this application, please forward them to Mr. Thomas Fox, DEQ, WHMD, at the address below, or phone number (586) 753-3853, by Friday, March 2, 2007.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
-Waste and Hazardous Materials Division  
27700 Donald Court  
Warren, Michigan 48092

Publish: February 1, 2007





## Building blocks

Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation members sponsored their first fundraiser recently. More than 60 people attended the event which generated more than \$10,000 for the group. The high school Jazz Band Combo, including Anthony Hibbler, Andrew Hildebrandt and Mike Campbell, entertained guests at the Building Blocks evening. The foundation goal is to provide capital to improve Van Buren Public Schools through grants. Ten \$500 grants will be awarded to schools on Feb. 15. The foundation has received more than two dozens grant applications from school staff members. Education foundation board members include: (back row) Trustee Cindy King, Vice-President Randy Brown, Trustee Diane Patton, President Scott Jones, (front row) Treasurer Kelli DiPietro, Secretary Bill Wolters, Trustee Paul Henning and Trustee Brian Brice.



## Added fun Math Night planned at school

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Spaghetti and math go hand and hand for students at North Middle School in Belleville.

Teachers will serve spaghetti dinners at the annual Math Night for sixth, seventh and eighth graders and their parents, as well.

"This was one of the brainstormers from the school improvement team 3 years ago to get kids involved in math more and enjoy it with their families," said Kristin Rahn, creator of the event.

Math night will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 at the school. Reservations are required, but the event and dinner are free to all North Middle School students and family members.

"Our North Middle School Parent Teacher Organization has been generous enough to donate the spaghetti dinner before the Math Safari," said Rahn.

Everyone receives a passport to travel on the Math Safari to all seven continents, where they take part in different jungle adventures, like the North America Dollar Words game. Each letter of the word is worth an amount and the trick is to get as close to a dollar, Rahn said.

Other activities include Snowflakes for

Symmetry, Estimation Station, jeopardy games, and Tan Games, in which people take the pictures of shapes and have to put them into one picture. Passports then get stamped after each trip and students can turn them in for extra credit.

Teacher Karen DeWulf said it's an enjoyable evening for students and parents.

"It is our hope that they come away from it with a greater appreciation of math and the realization that math doesn't have to be boring," she said. "Last year we had a great turnout and, the response from students was overwhelmingly positive."

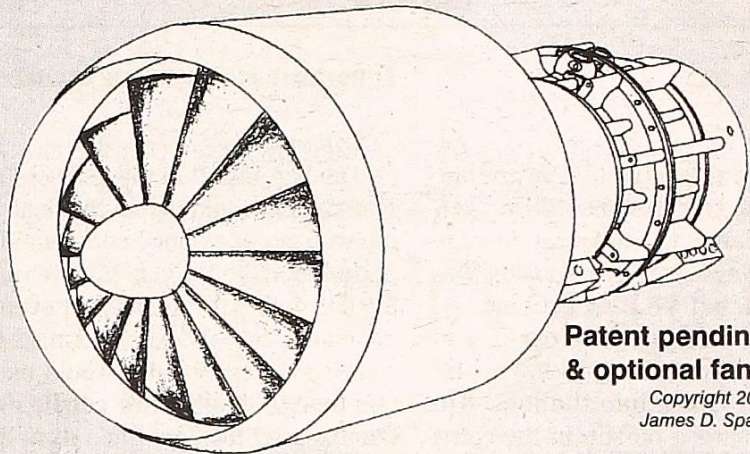
Principal Diane Tilson said the event has increased in attendance each year, which the school hopes to continue.

"It gives the students a hands-on experience with math that's positive and it's important to continue that attitude towards it," she said.

"We made it so all-ages of the whole family can enjoy the games," said Rahn. "Hopefully the students will realize there are all sorts of ways for the family to sit down and have fun with math. Everyone loves a free dinner, but their surprised how fun math can truly be."

For more information or to RSVP contact North Middle School at (734) 697-9171.

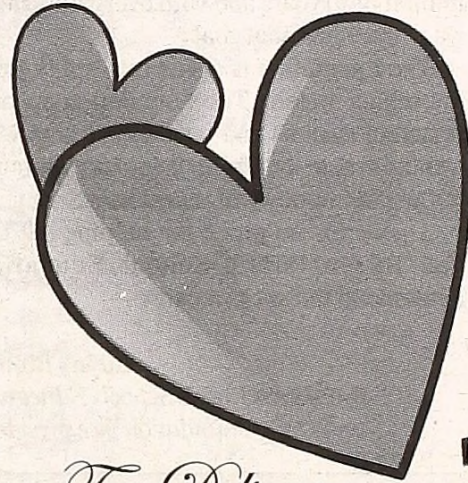
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# THE SCENE

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## Getting into the act New Tipping Point Theatre group plans red carpet Call to Action

Scott Spielman  
Editor

The curtain is rising very quickly on a new professional theater in Northville.

A local group has already obtained non-profit 501c3 status, leased a building and negotiated zoning changes with city planning officials, all since the end of October when they began to discuss the idea.

All they need now is enough money to renovate the building and mount the first season.

And after everything they've accomplished to date, that shouldn't be a problem.

Led by Executive Director Christina Johnson, a graduate of Northville High School, who has produced and directed shows for both the Northville Recreation Department and her alma mater, the new Tipping Point Theatre will present a series of four productions for 7-week runs beginning in May.

Channel 4 Meteorologist Chuck Gaidica, a Northville resident, is president of the board, and a driving force behind the effort. So much so, he and a partner, local developer Chuck Lapham, purchased the building at 321 Cady, which will be renovated into a "black box" 140-seat theater and leased to the group.

"This, we hope, is the tipping point, turning Northville into a theater district," Johnson, who has a degree in theater and communications from Albion College, said. "We named the theater after the Malcolm Gladwell book. We want this to be the one dra-

matic moment in an epidemic where everything changes all at once."

Gaidica noted that every step taken so far in the project has been serendipitous. "It has been terrific. The support and help we have received have been tremendous," Gaidica said. "I think it's because we are doing this for the right reasons."

Those reasons include emulating Jeff Daniels' Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea which has breathed new life into that area and helped attract a wider base of visitors to the town, which has helped all the local businesses.

"Chelsea became a destination with the theater there. People visit to patronize the shops and restaurants because they are going to the theater. That's what we hope to do here," Gaidica said.

Johnson agreed and noted that they had other important goals, too.

"There are literally hundreds of theater practitioners who live in the area who want to work. Why should they have to move to Chicago or somewhere else?" she said. "I'm talking not just about actors, but set designers, sound people, lighting people, directors, stage managers, talented people who can help us present professional contemporary theater. This will provide jobs."

Both Johnson and Gaidica are quick to stress another of their goals. Outreach programs with area schools and parks and recreation departments to offer classes and training in all aspects of theater production, for children and



Board members of the new Tipping Point Theatre in Northville include Karin Pearson, left, an assistant principal at Northville High School, Board of Directors President Chuck Gaidica and Executive Director Christina Johnson. The group has planned March 10 event to help fund the renovation of the theater building. (Photo by Ken Garner)

adults.

"We will offer a place to take classes where students can hone their skills so that they can find professional work," Johnson said. "We're going to create jobs, offer classes and help the local businesses already here."

Joined by her best friend and fellow board member, Karin Pearson, who is now an assistant principal at Northville High School, Johnson stressed the importance of bringing a diverse new segment of visitors and students to Northville.

"This can add a whole new element to the area," she said. "Northville could become a week-end destination."

And now the hard part:

Raising the more than \$100,000 needed to renovate the building and the estimated \$20-\$25,000 necessary to mount the first production.

That is the goal of the red carpet "A Call to Action" scheduled for 7 p.m. March 10. Tickets for the event, which is under the direction of well-known local designer David McKnight of Emerald City Designs, are priced at \$100 per person.

Included will be a strolling dinner and entertainment by a talented and "hilarious" comedy improvisation group. Gaidica will emcee the event and Pearson said with a smile, "We'll probably see some of his well-known celebrity friends."

"And it is tax deductible," Johnson was quick to stress.

She noted that the group is also looking for patrons—100 people to donate \$1,000 who will be offered recognition in the lobby of the theater, complimentary season tickets and special invitations to each opening night, cocktail parties with the various casts and other special inducements.

Other board members of Tipping Point Theatre include Sam Walton of Plymouth, Heather Brenke of Northville, MaryJo Cuppone of Ann Arbor, Susan Gaidica of Northville and Jennifer Steger of Livonia.

Tickets for the fundraising event and more information are available at (734) 446-5843.

## Epic Movie is simply monumental waste of time



Reviewed By  
Meghan Chatham  
Staff Writer

Last Sunday, I sped (figuratively, of course, officer) to the movie theater to enjoy the latest merciless satire from the creators of *Scary Movie*.

The writing team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer (*Scary Movie 1-4*, *Date Movie*), to me, means biting satire, guilty pleasure jokes—the ones where audience members know that shouldn't laugh and do anyway—and total irreverence.

It would be difficult to prove it to audiences who had the misfortune to sit through *Epic Movie*, though.

The 'plot', such as it is, follows four orphaned children who oddly enough appear to be in their late 20s, on a quest for a better life. Lucy (Jayman Mays) is alone in the world after the murder of her guardian, the curator of the Louvre in Paris. Edward (Kal Penn) has a rough life in a Mexican orphanage he dreams of escaping. Life at mutant school—don't ask—is hard on Peter (Adam Campbell), who is gifted or cursed with the ability to grow chicken wings. Meanwhile, the skys aren't too friendly for Susan (Faune A. Chambers), who never has the chance to meet her would-be adoptive parents, Brad and Angelina. Through a series of unfor-

tunate events, the 'kids' wind up at a sinister candy factory where the owner Willy has plans for them. To escape, they hide in a giant wardrobe that magically transports them to Gnarnia where they must take on the Evil White Bitch (Jennifer Coolidge).

While there are a few good scenes involving Sudoku and Paris Hilton, the only real entertainment value to the film comes from trying to ID the different films as they are lampooned on screen and playing spot-the-celebrity in uncredited roles. It gets old fast.

Unlike the best satires, which have a message of some kind buried behind the biting humor, *Epic Movie* (rated PG-13) fell flat. All it had was not terribly inventive mocking of movies ranging from *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Snakes on a Plane* with no apparent point except the directors had film they needed to fill if they were going to make any money.

Out of curiosity and wondering if I was perhaps a bit ...older...than their target demographic, I even decided to check in



# THE SCENE

## Smokin' Aces - Movie is really not so hot

With most of the attention going to the upcoming Oscars in February, January is reportedly the worst month for new movie releases.

That didn't stop Universal Pictures, in conjunction with Working Title, from putting all their cards on the table with the release of the amped-up, action gore-fest, *Smokin' Aces*.

Thankfully, smokin' is used in the title as a verb rather than an adjective. Although, entertaining at times, there's little smokin' about *Aces*—especially its Tarantino-esque delivery by director Joe Carnahan. There is a lot of smoke-ing in it, though—mostly by Ben Affleck, along with countless gun barrels. Even R&B/pop singer Alicia Keys' hooker disguise with thigh-high boots stocked to the heel with guns and ammo isn't hot enough to make it smokin'.

Keys trades in lyrics for dialogue as Georgia Sykes, an assassin for hire with friend Sharice Watters (Taraji Henson). She's one of the many mercenaries out to 'smoke' (or kill) Las Vegas magician-turned-mobster-turned-smitch Buddy 'Aces' Israel (Jeremy Piven) for a cool million bucks. Unfortunately, this is Keys' first acting stint and it isn't that great. It could be due to the poor dialogue, which was also written by Carnahan.

Carnahan crashed onto the scene with his highly acclaimed *Narc* (2002) that left Hollywood bowing down at his feet and literally kissing his 'Ace' for more.

With a pocketful of money and a roster chock full of veteran actors like Andy Garcia and Ray Liotta and relative newcomers such as Ryan Reynolds, Chris Pine and Keys; Carnahan delivers a bloody, fast-paced, crash-



Reviewed By  
Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

cut, non-stop action flick that is probably better suited to today's MTV generation than for those of us who witnessed the actual dawn of music television. I guess it's time to say goodnight to those days and welcome a new era of movie making—one that might require the older generation to nap after such exhaustive films. Not even the caffeine-heavy, pre-theater mocha kept my synapses firing fast enough to keep up.

That might be an exaggeration. For the record: I'm not that old and it was only a small coffee. It wasn't my entire fault either. There's too much going on in the first 15 minutes, leaving many an audience member reeling and grasping for clues.

The opening scene involves Reynolds as a sweaty junior FBI agent, Richard Messner, and his boss Donald Carruthers (Liotta) staking out mob boss Primo Sparazza's (Joseph Raskin) Vegas home. They tap into a call that turns into audio overload as the two agents talk on screen, other agents talk over the walkie-talkies and people talk on the phone all at the same time while trying to see what is transpiring on the surveillance cameras.

Then the entire back story is a verbal volley between the FBI,

assassins Watters and Sykes and bounty hunter trio Jack Dupree (Affleck), 'Pistol' Pete Deeks (Peter Berg) and Hollis Ellmore (Martin Henderson). The scenes, and story, are batted back and forth faster than the Korean National Ping-Pong team can hit a ball. The result is too many characters and too many subplots introduced in too short of time, leaving too many question marks.

It turns out every one wants Buddy, who split factions with a deathbed-ridden Sparazza, dead because he's turning over state evidence to deputy director of the FBI, Stanley Locke (Garcia).

Then crazy characters like the Tremor Brothers, speed freak neo-Nazi head hunters; Pasqual Acosta (Nestor Carbonell), a blood money mercenary; killer and master of disguise, Lazlo Soot (Tommy J. Flanagan); freelance assassins Watters and Sykes; the bounty hunters; and the feds converge on the Nomad Hotel in Lake Tahoe where Buddy is hiding. First they have to get by Buddy's bodyguards Sir Ivy, played surprisingly well by rapper Common; dimwitted Hugo (Joel Edgerton) and Beanie (Christopher Holley). To top it off, Locke has his own agenda for keeping both Buddy and

Sparazza alive.

Consequently the hunt, which is down a constantly twisting and turning road with apparently no speed limits, quickly turns into a blood bath as characters start dying before really being established.

There are also appearances by Jason Bateman as an off-kilter showbiz/mob attorney, Rip Reed, who hires Affleck's bounty hunters and Mathew Fox (*Lost*, *We Are Marshall*) plays a much too serious security director, Bill, at the Nomad.

As a reviewer/critic it's hard not comparing movies to other, usually better, ones.

*Aces*, in my opinion, is a cross between *True Romance*, which is some of Quentin Tarantino's best writing (a must-see)—because that's what Carnahan aspires here—and *The Usual Suspects* (another must-see); except with investigators wondering who Sparazza really is instead of *Suspects*' Keyser Soze.

The final product is entertaining but muddled, making *Smokin' Aces* far from the perfect hand

that was intended. Yet its flashy trailers and large cast is sure to get viewers off their 'aces' and into theaters.

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**THE MESSENGERS** (PG-13) (11:55) 1:55, 3:55, 5:55, 7:55, 9:55 FRI/SAT LS 11:55

**EPIC MOVIE** (PG-13) (11:25) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:40

**CATCH AND RELEASE** (PG-13) (11:20) 1:50, 4:15, 6:45, 9:10 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

**DREAMGIRLS** (PG-13) (11:00) 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

**STOMP THE YARD** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

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## Epic Movie

FROM PAGE 7

with two of my favorite teens to see what they had thought of the film. 'Stupid movie' connoisseurs that they are, they offered it their most cutting attacks: it was boring and it wasn't funny.

Last weekend, *Epic Movie* came in at number one at the box office. It will be interesting to



see how it does in the future. Maybe if it tanks, Hollywood will put the humor back in satires

instead of just a mishmash of characters.

For sports updates visit  
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# THE SCENE

## FIRST prize Robotics team readies for contests

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

This year, the goal is to lift several blue intertubes into the air and place them on a metal bracket – but every year, the goal is to teach students about science and technology.

So say organizers of FIRST (For Inspiration of Science and Technology), a nationwide joint education-industry partnership that requires students to use building, computer, robotics and technology skills to build a robot in 6 weeks. The robot will then compete at a conference where it will perform tasks.

At Romulus High School, the FIRST team is partnered once again with the GM Powertrain plant, located in the city.

Last week, the students showed off a prototype of their robot, and sold raffle tickets to help students who cannot afford to travel to tournaments.

"I really learned a lot doing this," said Gregory Cooper, 17-year-old junior at Romulus High. "I had never been exposed to this type of work before – I didn't even know that I was good at working with my hands. I'm really surprised at how fast I learned some of this stuff, though."

Kevin Gay, a manufacturing

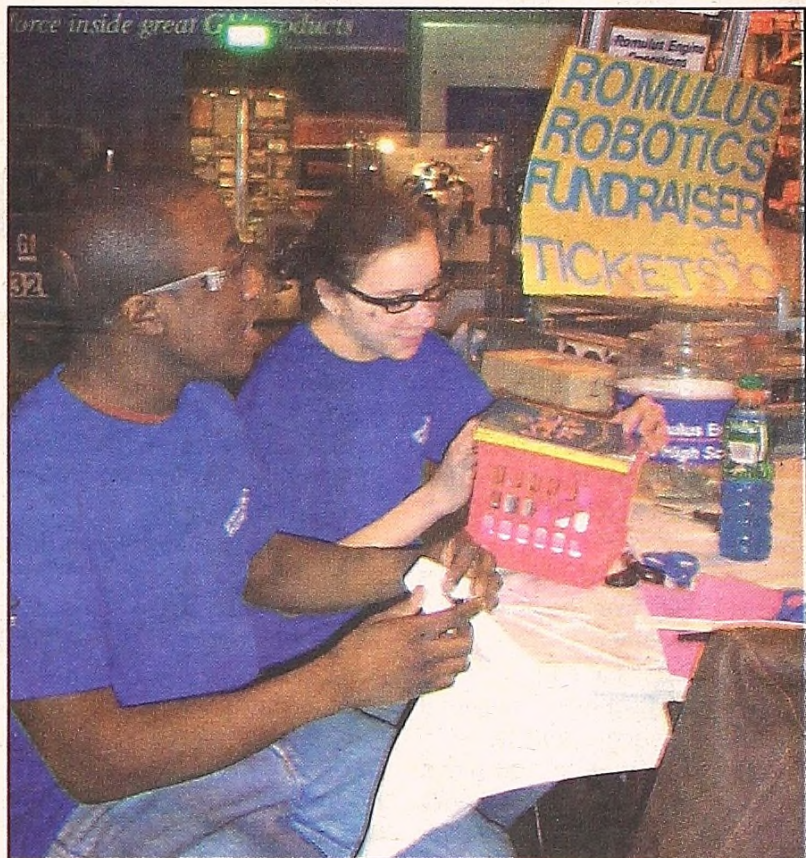
engineer at the plant, Doug Mayo, a controls engineer, and Andrew Stewart, a physical science teacher at Romulus High School, mentor the FIRST team. The men said FIRST is one way to expose students to how technology works in the real world.

"The main difference with this program versus talking about science in the classroom is that they see how things are accomplished in the workplace," said Stewart.

"They get to learn so much here that you just can't learn in a classroom setting. It's more than just the technology – it's also teamwork," he said.

Science and technology jobs – which are highly sought after in Michigan and elsewhere – are touted as mainstay of the workforce. Students often have a difficult time believing they can be part of this, Gay said.

"Building the robot helps them build skills," he said. "This runs very much like a company, or a work group. We have all of the aspects that a company would – someone handles getting all of our supplies, another will track the budget, another will work on public relations. These are skills they (students) can take with them even if they decide not to pursue engineer-



Students Gregory Cooper and Candace Poet, both 17, sell tickets to a raffle that will help fund the FIRST team's travel plans this year.



The FIRST team built a playhouse to raffle help defray travel expense.

ing."

Many schools take part in the FIRST program. Each team will participate in several rounds of competition, and advance until one team is named the 2007 champion. To help raise money for the travel, the FIRST team built an elaborate playhouse to raffle to a lucky plant employee.

The playhouse is large enough to fit a full-size adult, and was built using materials donated by a local building supply company.

The students sold about 60

tickets at \$10 per ticket during the day-long raffle, and the winner of the playhouse will be announced during the next few days.

Gay, who has mentored the students for about 6 years, said he gets as much out of leading the first program as the students do.

"It's great to see their faces light up after they get something to work right that was difficult for them," he said. "It gives the students such a sense of achievement."

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# SPORTS

## Canton tumbles past Salem

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Although the Salem Lady Rocks placed first in three events against Canton, it was the Lady Chiefs that won the tumblers' dual meet, 143.875-141.290, last Tuesday.

Canton's vaulting champ Alyssa Kelley won the all around with 37.425 points.

She put her bounding skills to good use and set a new personal and school record with a near-perfect vault that earned her a 9.825 and first place—the team's only one. Kelley also earned high marks on bars (9.35) and beam (9.30). She fell short of scoring all 9s with an 8.95 on her floor program.

Salem's Katie Koetting won two of the events for her team.

She had solid performances on the beam and floor the Rocks. She beat out the competition with a 9.40 on the bars and scored a 9.50 on floor. Her two wins, along with a second place on vault (9.45) and a fifth place (9.025) finish on beam, put her second in the all around with a total of 37.375.

Salem's other first-place performance came from Autumn Collins. She scored a 9.5 on the

balance beam. She also scored a 9.10 on vault to tie for fourth with Canton's Kaitlyn Burns. Collins finished the competition in fourth place in the all around with a final score of 35.30 that included an 8.20 (sixth) on bars and 8.50 on floor.

Burns placed second on floor with a 9.05 and scored an 8.9 on beam for sixth.

Canton cornered the second-place market with Jesse Murray's 9.45 on the beam. She was also third on vault with a 9.20 and tied for fourth with Salem's Kat Kariotis on floor with an 8.80. She also had an 8.60 on bars for fifth. Her top performances placed third in the all-around with 36.05. Kariotis scored an 8.85 on vault and an 8.80 on beam.

Salem's other high marks went to Brittany Young, who placed third on bars with a 9.05, and Shawdi Dasger with an 8.55 for sixth on the floor.

Canton's Kate Staley placed fourth on both bars (8.90) and beam (9.05) and sixth (9.00) on vault to help place her fifth in the all-around (35.15).

Canton scored 112.075 points to Salem's 105.05 in B-team rounds.

Katelyn Rutherford (8.25), Sam O'Flynn (8.10) and Kate

Carroll (8.00) were all solid on the vaulted for Canton. Rutherford also had an 8.175 on beam.

Salem had good performances from Kasey Winczkowski (8.25) and Katherine Negele (8.15) on vault. Winczkowski also score an 8.00 on beam.

Canton also placed second out of 13 at the Troy Athens Invitational on Saturday.

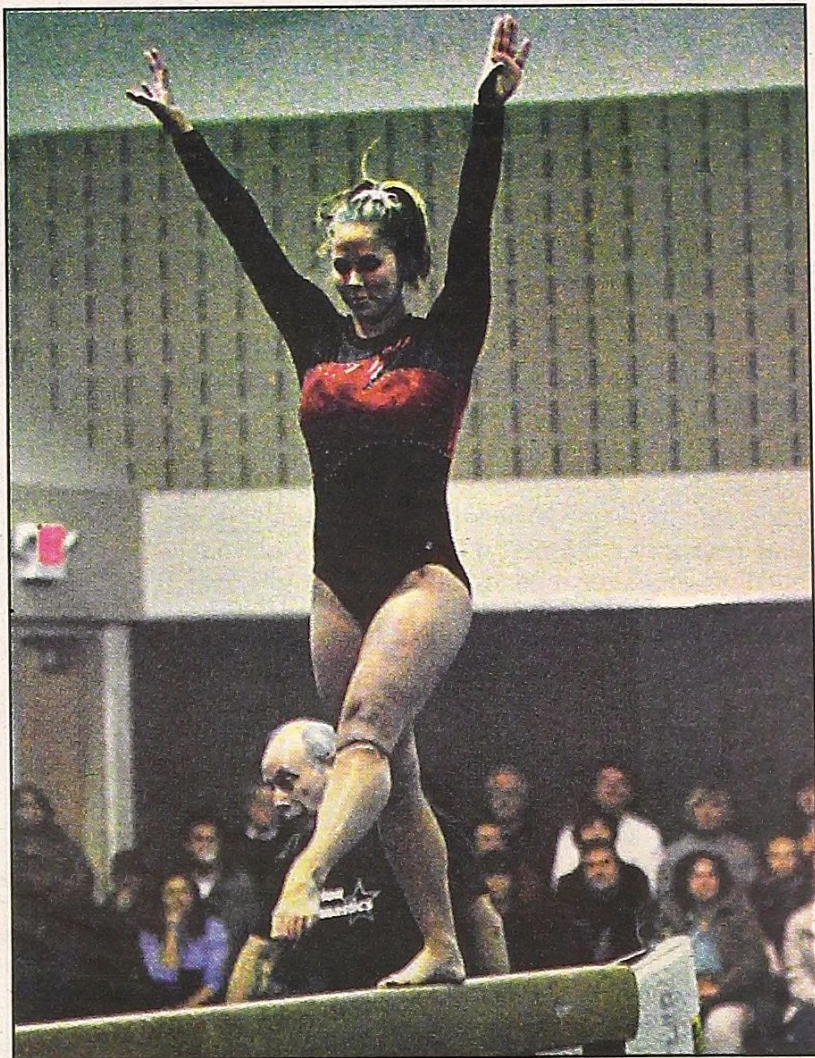
They trailed the Livonia's Red team 143.975-143.725, missing first by .25 for the second time this season.

"The score .25 may be the bane of our season," said Canton Coach John Cunningham. "We had a first-place performance but didn't take the first-place trophy. We had zero falls on beam, resulting in the best team score on the event. I couldn't have asked for a better performance from the whole team."

Kelley finished fourth place all around (36.925), which included a 9.8 on vault for first.

Murray finished in seventh in the all-around and tied the school record with a 9.55 on the balance beam—a first-place performance. Kate Staley was 10th in the all around with a total of (35.25) and Burns placed third on beam with an 8.90.

Canton hosts its annual invita-

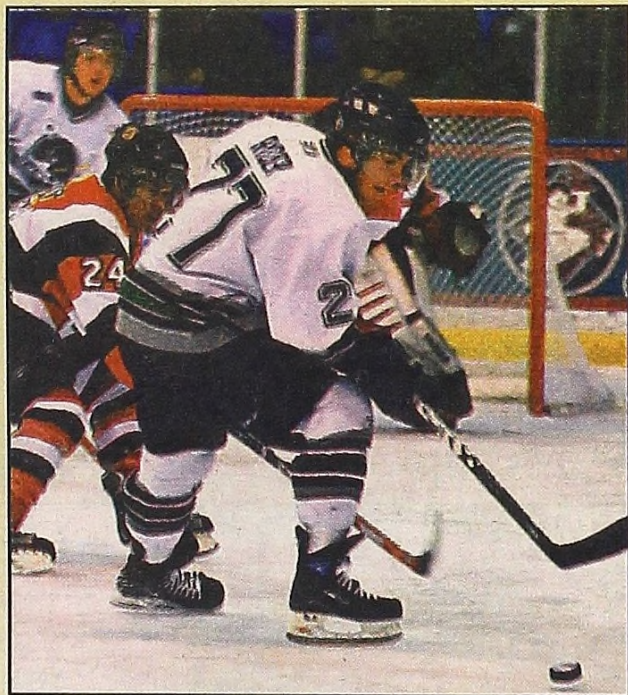


Canton Gymnast Kaitlyn Burns scored an 8.9 on the beam to help her team beat rival Salem last week. Her repeat performance on Saturday helped Canton to second place at the Troy Athens Invite. Photo by Ken Garner

tional at 10 a.m. on Saturday, to Livonia Churchill at 7 p.m. on which includes Salem and Monday. Salem hosts Northville Plymouth. The Lady Chiefs head at 7 p.m. on Monday.

## Whalers win three

The Plymouth Whalers remained in first place of the OHL's West division with three wins over the weekend. Plymouth washed out host Toronto, 6-3, on Sunday. Evan Brophey scored two goals and assisted on another for the Whalers. James Neal added one score and two assists. AJ Jenks also had two goals, including an empty-netter to put the game away. Tom Sestitto also scored. Plymouth also iced visiting Sault Ste. Marie, 6-0 on Saturday. Michal Neuvirth recorded the shutout for Plymouth. The team received goals from Sean O'Connor (2), Jared Boll, Neal, Joe



Whaler Daniel Ryder races to the puck against Ottawa's Logan Couture on Friday night. Photo by Ken Garner

McCann and Ryan McGinnis. The Whalers' 4-1 victory against Ottawa kicked off the weekend. Andrew Fournier scored twice in the win. Neal and Chris Terry also scored. The Whalers are home at 7:05 p.m. on Friday against Erie and London at 7:05 p.m. on Saturday.

## Mustangs notch 2 more victories

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Northville Mustangs continue to reign in the Western division with two more victories last week.

Northville held on for a 52-47 road win against the Walled Lake Western Warriors on Friday.

Western drained nine triples to keep the game close. Warrior senior Ralph

Johnson hit a jumper with 14 seconds left to bring his team within four, 49-45. Then Northville junior forward Dan Kirkpatrick drained two free throws to put the game away.

"Western is a very athletic team and shot well against us," said Northville coach Darrel Schumacher. "We went through everything we could to stop them from

See Mustangs, page 12

## Rockets lead Lakes division

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Nobody knew where the John Glenn Rocket basketball team would be this year after a disappointing year last year and with a new coach this year.

That includes first-year coach Dan Young.

"To be honest, I didn't really know what to expect this year," he said. "I knew there was talent here but I didn't know how well or how quick they would mesh."

So far the season has been good for the Rockets.

Young and group are the only undefeated team on the Lakes side of the Western Lake Athletic Association (WLAA) conference at 4-0. They are 5-2 overall in the conference, trailing only Northville (6-1) and Canton (7-0), and are 7-4 overall for the season.

"We're playing better, but we have a long way to go," said the cautious coach. "We're just trying to take care of our home court."

Glenn is 5-1 at home—losing only a crossover match with cross-town rival Wayne on Jan. 5.

The Rockets have won their last five consecutive games, including a road trip to Churchill last Tuesday and against a visiting Salem team on Friday.

A quick start led to a 68-53 victory over the Rocks.

Glenn jumped to a 21-15 lead after one frame. The effort was supported by a 22-13 fourth quarter that put Salem away for

good.

The Rocks kept it close, narrowing the gap to one, 31-30, at the half but the Rockets pulled ahead 46-40 after the break.

"It's always nice to get off to a good start," Young said. "It was close game throughout, though. In the third, we got some rebounds and some stuff in transition to pull ahead. This is a good win for us."

*It's always nice to get off to a good start. It was a close game throughout, though.*

**Coach Dan Young**

Glenn also out-rebounded the Rocks, 26-16. Rebounding is a skill that the Rockets are learning to live or lose by. Young said his team is undefeated when they out-rebound opposing teams and are win-

less when they don't.

A trio of juniors led the offense. Keshawn Martin led with 23. Stefan Marken recorded a double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds and Earl Hardison added 13 points and eight rebounds.

Dan Cassidy scored 19 for Salem. After losing four straight road games, Glenn got one back with their first travel win against host Livonia Churchill last Tuesday.

It wasn't easy as the Rockets battled back from a half-time deficit to win, 49-46.

Glenn fell behind, 20-18, at the half but outscored the Chargers 31-26 to get the victory.

Martin led the team with 14 points. The Rockets start the second round of Lakes play at 7 p.m. at Walled Lake Central. They host their only home game of the second stretch against Churchill at 7



SPORTS

# ‘Braves’ new world

## Belleville falls to Ypsilanti Braves

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

It's crunch time for the Belleville Tigers Basketball squad.

The team lost its second Mega Red bout in a 73-60 affair at Ypsilanti on Friday. The loss drops Belleville to 2-2 in conference play with a game against Romulus on Tuesday and an entire second half of the season yet to go.

"I'm a little concerned," said first year Belleville Coach Don Hickman. "We may need help from other teams if we want a chance to win the league. Usually the team with only two or three losses wins it and if you get into the four-loss range you don't. We already have two. Hopefully, we can turn around and beat some of these teams in the second part of the season."

Against Ypsilanti, Belleville concentrated on stopping Braves' standout L.J. Frazier and did so with great defense from 6-foot-5 Anthony Wafer and 6-foot-7 Mohammed Conde.

With all efforts geared toward stopping Frazier it freed up post-player Terry Lopez to score a game-high 19 points and nab 11 rebounds for Ypsi.

"I knew Lopez was good but I didn't think he would have a 19-point game," Hickman said. "He really hurt us in the

post."

Belleville struggled to make shots from the perimeter and trailed most of the game. The Tigers brought the deficit to within six at the end of the third but a three-point play took the winds out of their sails, Hickman said.

The braves made another run in the fourth and Belleville never got closer than eight the rest of the way.

Marvon Sanders scored 16 points for Ypsilanti. Frazier would finish with 11, along with younger brother Jordan Frazier.

Kyle Gupton, a transfer from Lincoln that sat out the first semester of play, led the Tigers with 13. Marius Williams added 10 in the effort.

Belleville played a different game against Saline at home on Tuesday night.

They pressed the ball aggressively all the way to a 69-33 thumping.

Wafer led the team with 11 pints and eight rebounds. Williams and Gupton each added 10.

"We really pushed the tempo and wore them down," Hickman said. "I didn't think that they could handle our quickness the entire game."

Belleville hosts its Coming Home game against River Rouge at 7 p.m. on Friday before heading to Detroit Community at 7 p.m. next Tuesday.

## Romulus wrestlers struggle against Melvindale, improve at Southgate

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

After a couple of strong weeks on the mats, Romulus wrestlers struggled last week as a team against Melvindale and at the Southgate Invitational.

The Eagles only earned 18 points in last Thursday's match up against the visiting Cardinals. Melvindale rolled to the victory with 61 points.

"Not a very good day for us," said Romulus Coach David Cooper. "Melvindale showed up to wrestle and we did not. They were definitely the better team that night."

After the disappointing loss the team turned things around on Saturday when they went to Southgate for the Titan's invitational.

Romulus only won two of its five matches as a team but had an otherwise good day individually.

Earl Hunt and Patrick Sutter both were undefeated, 5-0, on the day.

Hunt won the 135-pound weight class.

His five wins included two pins. Sutter was the champion of the 152-pound class.

Brian Householder, at 160 pounds, went 4-1 with his only loss to a tough Anchor Bay opponent, according to Cooper. Jon Perez (170) and Joe Lewis (125) also went 4-1 in competition. Carl Roscoe went 3-2 in the 112-pound weight class.

As a team, Romulus didn't win them all but the ones they did they were big. The Eagles trounced Warren Lincoln (51-26) and Madison Heights Madison (54-38). Losses came by way of South gate (42-28), Anchor Bay (46-26) and a close one to East Detroit (39-36).

"It was a much better day of wrestling after the bad day on Thursday," Cooper said. "Even though we went 2-3 as team we had a lot of good individuals wrestle very well. We improved in those two days. The kids worked hard after the Melvindale loss."

Romulus plays host to Garden City at 6 p.m. today and visits Crestwood at 6 p.m. next Thursday.

### More sports

#### Lumberjacks cut down Eagles in shootout

There were 184 points scored in 32 minutes when Romulus hosted top-ranked Saginaw Arthur Hill last Tuesday.

Romulus was on the short end in the 97-87 loss.

Hill standout Dar Tucker—a Mr. Basketball finalist—showed why he is one of the top players in the state. He threw down 32 points and nabbed 13 rebounds in the win.

Junior guard Dominique Buckley was Romulus' answer to Tucker. Buckley drained five triples in the final two minutes for 15 of his 23 points, keeping his Eagles close. Searcy led the Eagles with 24 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks.

Tommie Prater added 16, Latreze Mushatt 13 and Jonathan Townsend 12 for Saginaw.

Romulus hosts Ypsilanti at 7 p.m. on Friday and head to Country Day at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

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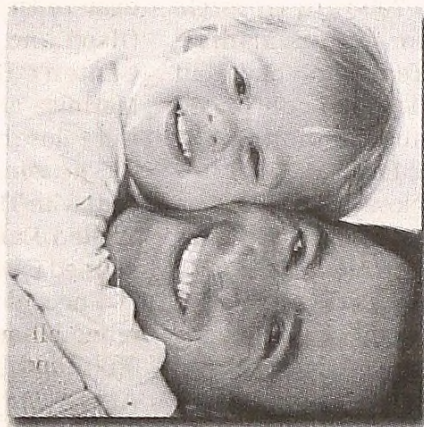


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# SPORTS

## Canton splashes Salem, Western

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The swim meet between campus rivals Canton and Salem was closer than the 110-70 score revealed.

The Chief swimmers won the meet but the Rocks were splashing on their heels in most of the events, missing out by less than a second here and just a second there.

However, it was races like the 50-yard freestyle where Canton dominated all three top spots that gave the Chiefs the victory.

Only .10 separated the Chief's swimmers. Jon Templeton earned first in a time of 24.33, edging out teammates Chris Marinica (24.39) and Chris McGinnis (24.43) for second and third respectively. Salem's Jon Babb (24.71) was a close fourth and fellow Rock Jason Williams (24.75) was fifth.

"We swam well against Salem," said Canton Coach Ed Weber. "It started off with an outstanding swim by Matt Carlson in the 200 free. Then we capitalized on the opportunity to earn first, second and third place in the 50 freestyle. Then we continued with seven wins out of the next eight events."

Carlson won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:49.84, nearly three seconds ahead of Salem's Nick Leone (1:52.24). The Chiefs also

**"It started off with an outstanding swim by Matt Carlson in the 200 free."**

took third with Ross Schwarz's 1:57.89 finish. Robert Blaesser (2:13.27) won the 200-yard IM by an arm length over Salem's David Olson (2:14.56). Canton's Kevin Karlinski (2:17.22) was third.

Blaesser (1:00.14) also outstretched Salem's Matt Underhill (1:00.86) in the 100-yard backstroke. Karlinski was third again (1:06.18).

Templeton was in another close battle against Underhill in the 100-yard freestyle. Templeton took first (51.86) and Underhill, second (52.28). Canton's Richard Zhang placed third (54.28).

Canton's 200-yard freestyle relay team of Marinica, McGinnis, Templeton and Matt Carlson (1:35.89) outpaced Salem's Babb, Nathan Spala, Williams and Leone (1:36.75).

Another close call came when Canton's 400-yard freestyle relay team of Ross Schwarz, Templeton, Blaesser and Carlson (3:30.72) beat out Salem's A-team of Leone, Olson, Underhill and Stan Chen (3:31.69).

Some of the bigger margins of victory for Canton included

Marinica's near four-second triumph (1:01.01) over Salem's Olson (1:03.83). Salem earned some extra points with third and fourth place finishes from Casey Olson (1:06.92) and Cameron Dunn (1:07.95).

Carlson (1:04.42) won the 100-yard breaststroke by more than four seconds over Salem's Chen (1:08.55). Spala (1:13.20) earned third for Salem.

Canton also won the 1-meter dive event with the only two divers; McGinnis scored 170.05 for first against teammate Kyle Broderick (93.70).

Canton didn't win them all, though.

Leone (5:10.48) earned the top spot in the 500-yard freestyle, beating out Canton's Schwarz (5:13.08).

Salem also opened the meet with a first-place finish in the 200-yard medley relay with its team of Underhill, Chen, David Olson and Williams (1:49.62). Canton's Blaesser, Karlinski, Marinica and McGinnis (1:50.42) were close behind.

The win against Salem, coupled with Thursday's victory over Walled Lake Western (105-77), boosted Canton to 5-1 overall.

The Chiefs play host to their other campus-rival Plymouth at 7:00 tonight and head to Ann Arbor Huron at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Salem is home against Churchill at 7 p.m. today.

## Mustangs

FROM PAGE 10

shooting and they were still making those threes."

Northville led after one but trailed, 18-17, at the half.

Senior Bret Spencer sparked a 6-0 run for Northville at the top of the third. Kirkpatrick and David Burke followed for Northville to recapture the lead, 23-18. They closed out the third ahead, 31-26.

Alvin Storrs had another standout game, scoring 26. He was 8-of-10 from the line. Greg Hasse finished with nine and Kirkpatrick added eight.

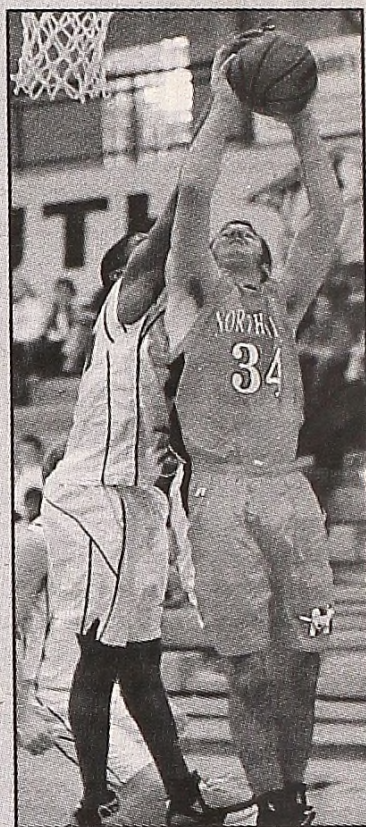
Western senior Darryl Warthen scored 20 points for the Warriors, including five triples.

Northville had plenty in 'Storr' when the Mustangs defeated host Plymouth, 58-42, last Tuesday.

Storrs scored a season and game high 36 points—24 in the first half—to lead the 'Stangs. He was steady from the line again, hitting 16-of-19 (84 percent).

Brandon Roberts scored 17—12 in the first half—for the Wildcats.

Storrs scored 13 in the second quarter to help his team to a 31-25 half-time advantage. A slow third found Northville



Mustang Greg Hasse (34) grabs a rebound over a Plymouth defender in Northville's 58-42 win. Photo by Diana Birdsall

up 39-30. Storrs finished off the night with a steal and slam dunk with 2:32 left to play. He then retired to the bench with 36 notches on his belt.

Northville is at Wayne at 7 p.m. on Friday. They host Plymouth at 7 p.m. on Tuesday to start the second round of West play.

Plymouth heads to Canton at 7 p.m. on Friday.

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1. Obituaries

BROWN, Elsie R., age 80, of Romulus, MI, died Tues. January 23, 2007 in Wayne, MI. Ms. Brown was born March 17, 1926 in Galax, VA. She was preceded in passing by her parents, Melvin T. and Carrie E. (Goins) Robinson, and her loving husband Thomas M. Brown. She is survived by sisters, Annie Crockett and Minnie (Tom) Catledge; brother, Frank (Alena) Robinson and niece, Linda Price. Services were held at First Congregational Church and officiated by Rev. Robert Joy. Cremation Rites accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home, Romulus, MI.

OSSENMACHER, Lawrence Edward, age 65 of Wayne, passed away January 19, 2007. He was born Jan. 7, 1942 in Detroit, the son of Lawrence A. and Mary (Sanderson) Ossenmacher. He retired from the City of Wayne in 1997 after 32 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Patricia (Durham) Ossenmacher; children, Lawrence Ossenmacher, Jr., Leonard (Amber) Ossenmacher and Christine Ossenmacher; step-daughter, Aleisha (Dan) Mckuhen; sister, Deborah Ossenmacher; grandchildren, Austin, Jonny, Joey and Cheyenne. Cremation arrangements by Akin-Davis Funeral Home, LaBelle, FL.

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59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 2/22/07 at 1:30pm, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at: The Storroom Self Storage, 40600 Michigan Avenue, Canton MI:

Space #924-John Wagner: Misc. small appliances, household goods, TV/electronics, household furnishings, boxes/bags, toys, power tools, recreation equipment, snow removal equipment, lawn care equipment, other misc. items; Space #1120-Danny R. Napier II: Household furnishings, toys, recreation equipment, exercise equipment, other misc. items; Space #1002-Amy Garris: Household appliances, household furnishings, household goods, boxes/bags, toys, hand tools, recreation equipment, office equipment, other misc. items; Space #304-Gregory Stephens: Household furnishings, boxes/bags, exercise equipment, other misc. items; Space #735-Megan Marie Hansor: Misc. small appliances, household goods, boxes/bags, toys, other misc. items.

Notice is hereby given that on 2/21/07 at 11:30am, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

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Space #L-20-Jamil Canasi: Household appliances, household furnishings, hand tools, power tools, lawn care equipment, other misc. items; Space #B-15-Leroy Williams: Household furnishings, other misc. items; Space #P-18-Robert Gary: Household appliances, misc. small appliances, household furnishings, hand tools, power tools, other misc. items; Space #L-4-Byron Gardner: Household appliances, household furnishings, household goods, boxes/bags, power tools, recreation equipment, lawn care equipment, office equipment, other misc. items; Space #L-27-Brenda Williams: Boxes/bags, clothing, other misc. items; Space #H-28-Jason Michael Collins: Household appliances, boxes/bags, clothing, recreation equipment, other misc. items; Space #D-28-L. Kai Hopkins: Misc. small appliances,

household furnishings, household goods, boxes/bags, power tools, recreation equipment, other misc. items; Space #P-30-Daniel Pigg: Boxes/bags, clothing, other misc. items, car carrier; Space #E-17E-Gail Turner-Boxes/bags.

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On Feb. 20, 2007, at 1:00PM, U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Road, Romulus, MI 48174, with reserve, will sell by the unit to the highest bidder by CASH all rights, title and interest to the following property: #B34-Cassandra Bell-Boxes, furniture, appliances, misc; #D76-Shaun Davis-Stove, stand, crib and boxes; #D8-Mitchel Dean Leach-Chairs, paint cans, shelf, fishing poles, misc; #E44-Larry Cook-Paint cans, painting supplies, boxes, misc.

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Christian Education (9:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m.)  
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Sunday Service 8am & 11am • Monday Evenings 7pm  
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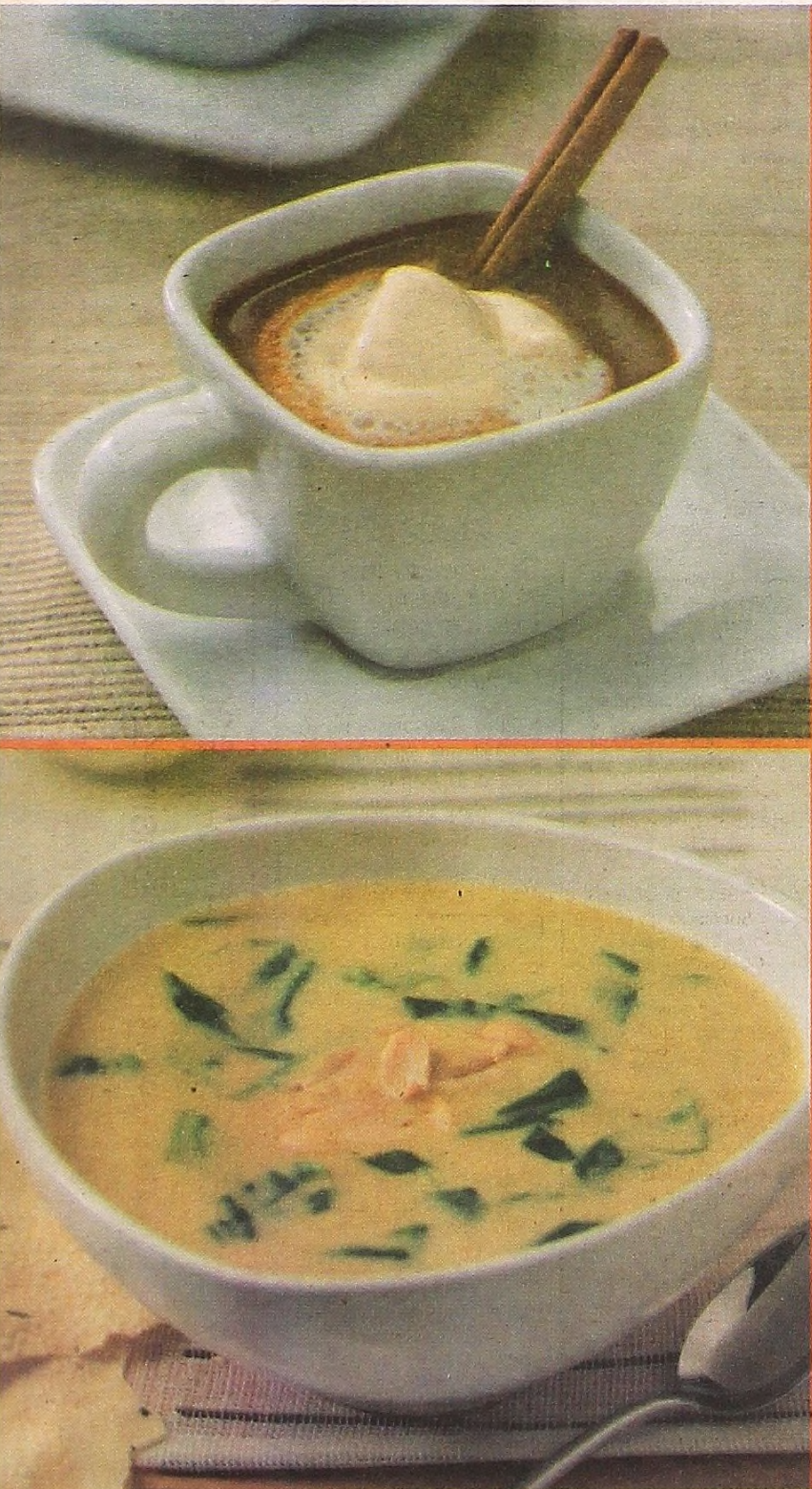
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Call Eric at 734-467-1900  
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# FOOD

## CULINARY INSPIRATION from Around the World



### “At Home” Pad Thai With Creamy Peanut Sauce

Makes 6 servings

#### PEANUT SAUCE

- 2/3 cup (5-fluid-ounce can) Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/3 cup smooth or chunky peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

#### PAD THAI

- 8 ounces dried, thin rice noodles\*
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 1/2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 large fresh lime, cut into wedges, *divided*
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 6 ounces small shrimp, peeled and deveined, or 1 boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into small pieces
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 cups (about 4 ounces) fresh bean sprouts
- 1 bunch green onions, sliced (about 3/4 cup), *divided*
- 1/2 cup chopped peanuts, *divided*

PLACE evaporated milk, peanut butter, soy sauce and ginger in blender; cover. Blend 30 seconds or until smooth. Set aside. Makes 1 cup.

SOAK rice noodles 30 minutes in hot tap water; drain. Noodles will be flexible but not soft.

COMBINE water, sugar, ketchup, soy sauce, juice of 1 lime wedge (1 teaspoon) and cayenne pepper in small bowl.

HEAT oil in large, non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Add shrimp and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, 3 minutes or until shrimp turn pink. Stir in noodles, stirring quickly to keep from sticking. Pour ketchup mixture over noodles; cook 2 minutes or until sauce is absorbed, stirring constantly.

PUSH noodles to side of skillet. Add egg to skillet, stirring until cooked. Stir in bean sprouts, 1/2 cup green onions and 1/4 cup peanuts until mixed.

MOUND mixture on large serving plate. Pour 1/2 cup peanut sauce down center of noodles and sprinkle with remaining green onions and peanuts. Squeeze 2 lime wedges over noodles and garnish with additional wedges. Serve with remaining peanut sauce.

\*NOTE: If rice noodles are not available, 8 ounces dried linguine, prepared according to package directions, can be substituted.

**Nutrition Facts per Serving:** 440 calories, 21g total fat (4.5g saturated fat), 85 mg cholesterol, 760mg sodium, 47g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 18g pro, 10% calcium, 15g sugars

### Creamy Curried Soup With Wilted Spinach

Makes 4 servings

- 1 can (15.5 ounces) garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Carnation Evaporated Fat Free Milk
- 3/4 cup apple juice
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 reduced sodium chicken flavor bouillon cube
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 cups spinach leaves (about 2 ounces), chopped
- Chopped peanuts (optional)

PLACE garbanzo beans, evaporated milk, apple juice, water, curry, bouillon cube, garlic and ginger in blender; cover. Blend 1 minute or until smooth.

POUR into medium saucepan. Add spinach; bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low; simmer 1 minute or until spinach is tender.

LADLE into bowls; top each serving with peanuts, if desired.

**Nutrition Facts per Serving:** 150 calories, 1g total fat (0g saturated fat), 0mg cholesterol, 460mg sodium, 27g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 9g protein, 25% calcium, 16g sugars

#### FAMILY FEATURES

As international cuisines continue to grow in popularity, many Americans are now recreating these unique and ethnic flavors in their home kitchens. From Indian to Mexican, there is one simple ingredient that can help in the journey of ethnic cooking — evaporated milk.

Commonly used in the American kitchen to make familiar favorites such as pumpkin pie and chocolate fudge, evaporated milk is also a popular ingredient used around the world to enhance ethnic recipes. With its special concentration of milk proteins and sugars, this cooking milk helps blend the seasonings in peanut sauce, contributes to the creaminess of curried soup and creates a thick, airy foam in hot chocolate.

See for yourself and prepare for a global taste adventure your entire family will enjoy!

### Mexican Hot Chocolate Shots With Spicy Foam

Makes 8 servings

- 2 cans (12 fluid ounces each) Carnation Evaporated Milk, *divided*
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups (9 ounces) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet or Milk Chocolate Morsels
- 1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract, *divided*
- 1/2 plus 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon, *divided*
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper, *divided* (optional)

POUR 1/2 cup evaporated milk into medium mixer bowl; place beaters into mixture. Freeze about 30 minutes or until ice crystals form around edge of bowl.

HEAT remaining evaporated milk, water, morsels, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and 1 pinch cayenne pepper in medium saucepan over low heat, stirring frequently, until melted. Do not boil. Set aside.

REMOVE chilled evaporated milk from freezer. Beat on high speed 1 minute or until very frothy. Add 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract, 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon and 1 pinch cayenne pepper. Continue beating 3 to 4 minutes or until mixture forms soft peaks.

POUR hot chocolate into eight 4-ounce demitasse cups and immediately dollop with foam topping.

**Nutrition Facts per Serving:** 280 calories, 15g total fat (10g saturated fat), 30mg cholesterol, 85mg sodium, 29g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 7g protein, 25% calcium, 26g sugars

#### A Cooking Essential

Find more tempting recipes at [TheCookingMilk.com](http://TheCookingMilk.com). From fiery *Spicy Jack Mac & Cheese* to refreshing *Key Lime Mousse*, Carnation Evaporated Milk, fondly referred to as The Cooking Milk™, makes recipes delicious.



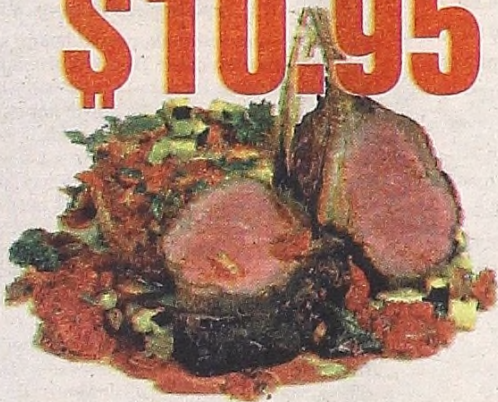


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